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The dogmatist is sure of every thing, and the *skeptick* believes nothing. *Watts's Logic.*
SKEPTICAL. *adj.* [from *skeptick*.] Doubtful; pretending to universal doubt.

May the Father of mercies confirm the *skeptical* and wavering minds, and so prevent us that stand fast, in all our doings, and further us with his continual help. *Bentley.*
SKEPTICISM. *n. f.* [*scepticism*, French, from *skeptick*.] Universal doubt; pretence or profession of universal doubt.

I laid by my natural diffidence and *scepticism* for a while, to take up that dogmatick way. *Dryden.*
SKETCH. *n. f.* [*schœula*, Latin.] An outline; a rough draught; a first plan.

I shall not attempt a character of his present majesty, having already given an imperfect *sketch* of it. *Addison.*
 As the lightest *sketch*, if justly trac'd,
 Is by ill colouring but the more disgrac'd,
 So by false learning is good sense defac'd. *Pope.*

TO SKETCH. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To draw, by tracing the outline.

If a picture is daubed with many glaring colours, the vulgar eye admires it; whereas he judges very contemptuously of some admirable design *sketched* out only with a black pencil, though by the hand of Raphael. *Watts's Logic.*

TO PLAN. by giving the first or principal notion.
 The reader I'll leave in the midst of silence, to contemplate those ideas which I have only *sketch'd*, and which every man must finish for himself. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

SKEWER. *n. f.* [*skere*, Danish.] A wooden or iron pin, used to keep meat in form.

Sweet breeds and collops were with *skewers* prick'd about the sides. *Dryden's Iliad.*

From his rug the *skewer* he takes,
 And on the stick ten equal notches makes. *Swift.*

I once may overlook,
 A *skewer* sent to table by my cook. *King.*

Send up meat well stuck with *skewers*, to make it look round; and an iron *skewer*, when rightly employed, will make it look handfomer. *Swift's Directions to the Cook.*

TO SKEWER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To fasten with *skewers*.

SKIFF. *n. f.* [*skiffe*, French; *scapha*, Lat.] A small light boat. If in two *skiffs* of cork, a loadstone and steel be placed within the orb of their activities, the one doth not move, the other standing still; but both steer into each other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

In a poor *skiff* he pass'd the bloody main,
 Choak'd with the slaughter'd bodies of his train. *Dryden.*

On Garway cliffs
 A savage race by shipwreck fed,
 Lie waiting for the founder'd *skiffs*,
 And strip the bodies of the dead. *Swift.*

SKILFUL. *adj.* [*skill* and *full*.] Knowing; qualified with skill; possessing any art; dextrous; able.

His father was a man of Tyre, *skilful* to work in gold and silver. *2 Chron. ii. 14.*

They shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are *skilful* of lamentation, to wailing. *Amos v. 16.*

Will Vafer is *skilful* at finding out the ridiculous side of a thing, and placing it in a new light. *Tatler.*

Say, Stella, feel you no content,
 Reflecting on a life well spent;
 Your *skilful* hand employ'd to save
 Despairing wretches from the grave:
 And then supporting with your store
 Those whom you dragg'd from death before. *Swift.*

Instructors should not only be *skilful* in those sciences which they teach; but have skill in the method of teaching, and patience in the practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

SKILFULLY. *adv.* [from *skilful*.] With skill; with art; with uncommon ability; dextrously.

As soon as he came near me, in fit distance, with much fury, but with fury *skilfully* guided, he ran upon me. *Sidney.*

Ulysses builds a ship with his own hands, as *skilfully* as a shipwright. *Broome.*

SKILFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *skilful*.] Art; ability; dextrousness.

He fed them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the *skilfulness* of his hands. *Psalms lxxviii. 72.*

SKILL. *n. f.* [*skil*, Islandick.] Knowledge of any practice or art; readiness in any practice; knowledge; dexterity; artfulness.

Skill in the weapon is nothing without fact. *Shakespeare.*

You have
 As little *skill* to fear, as I have purpose
 To put you to't. *Shakespeare.*

Of nothing profits more
 Than self-esteem grounded on just and right,
 Well manag'd; of that *skill* the more thou know'st,
 The more the will acknowledge thee her head. *Milton.*

I will from wondrous principles ordain
 A race unlike the first, and try my *skill* again. *Dryden.*

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Phocion the Athenian general, then ambassador from the state, by his great wisdom and *skill* at negotiations, diverted Alexander from the conquest of Athens, and restored the Athenians to his favour. *Swift.*

Any particular art.
 Learned in one *skill*, and in another kind of learning unskilful. *Hooker.*

TO SKILL. *v. n.* [*skilla*, Islandick.] To be knowing in; to be dextrous at.

They that *skill* not of heavenly matter,
 All that they know not, envy or admire. *Spenser.*

The overfears were all that could *skill* of instruments of music. *2 Chron. xxxiv. 12.*

One man of wisdom, experience, learning, and direction, may judge better in those things that he can *skill* of, than ten thousand others that be ignorant. *Whitgift.*

SKILL. *n. f.* [*skilla*, Islandick, signifies to distinguish.] To differ; to make difference; to interest; to matter. Not in use.

Whether the commandments of God in scripture be general or special, it *skilleth* not. *Hooker.*

What *skill* it is, if a bag of stones or gold
 About thy neck do drown thee? raise thy head,
 Take stars for money; stars not to be told,
 By any art: yet to be purchas'd.

None is so wailful as the scraping dame,
 She loathes three for one; her soul, rest, fame. *Herbert.*

He intending not to make a summer business of it, but a resolute war, without term prefixed, until he had recovered France, it *skilled* not much when he began the war, especially having Calais at his back where he might winter. *Bacon.*

SKILLED. *adj.* [from *skill*.] Knowing; dextrous; acquainted with.

Of these nor *skilled* nor studious. *Milton.*

Moses, in all the Egyptian arts was *skilled*,
 When heav'nly power that chosen vessel fill'd. *Denham.*

He must be very little *skilled* in the world, who thinks that a voluble tongue shall accompany only a good understanding. *Locke.*

SKILLLESS. *adj.* [from *skill*.] Wanting art. Not in use.

Nor have I seen
 More that I may call men than you:
 How features are abroad I'm *skilled* of. *Shakespeare.*

Jealously what might befall your travel,
 Being *skilled* in these parts; which to a stranger
 Unguided and unfriended, often prove
 Rough and unhopitable. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*

Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
 Mithapen in the conduct of them both,
 Like powder in a *skilled* soldier's flask
 Is set on fire. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*

SKILLET. *n. f.* [*secullette*, French.] A small kettle or boiler.

When light-wing'd toys
 Of feather'd Cupid foil with wanton dullness
 My speculative and offic'd instruments,
 Let house-wives make a *skillet* of my helm,
 And all indign and base advertities
 Make head against my estimation. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

Break all the wax, and in a kettle or *skillet* set it over a soft fire. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

SKILT. *n. f.* [A word used by *Cleaveland*, of which I know not either the etymology or meaning.]

Smeytymus! ha! what art?
 Syriack? Or Arabick? Or Welsh? What *skilt*?
 Ape all the bricklayers that Babel built. *Cleaveland.*

TO SKIM. *v. a.* [properly to *scum*, from *scum*; *scums*, French.] To clear off from the upper part, by passing a vessel a little below the surface.

My coz Tom, or his coz Mary,
 Who hold the plough or *skim* the dairy,
 My fav'rite books, and pictures sell. *Prior.*

TO TAKE BY SKIMMING.
 She boils in kettles must of wine, and *skims*
 With leaves the dregs that overflow the brims. *Dryden.*

His principal studies were after the works of Titian, whose cream he has *skim'd*. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

The surface of the sea is covered with its bubbles, while it rises, which they *skim* off into their boats, and afterwards separate in pots. *Addison.*

Whilome I've seen her *skim* the cloated cream,
 And press from spongy curds the milky stream. *Gay.*

TO BRUSH THE SURFACE SLIGHTLY; to pass very near the surface.

Nor seeks in air her humble flight to raise,
 Content to *skim* the surface of the seas. *Dryden.*

The swallow *skims* the river's watry face.
 A winged eastern blast just *skimming* o'er
 The ocean's brow, and sinking on the shore. *Prior.*

TO COVER SUPERFICIALLY. Improper.

Dang'rous flats in secret ambush lay,
 Where the false tides *skim* o'er the cover'd land,
 And scamen with dissembled depths betray. *Dryden.*

TO SKIM. *v. n.* [from *skim*.] To pass lightly; to glide along.

Thin airy shapes o'er the furrows rise,
 A dreadful scene! and *skim* before his eyes. *Addison.*

When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw,
 The line too labours, and the words move slow;
 Not to when swift Camilla scours the plain,
 Flies o'er the unbending corn, and *skims* along the main. *Pope.*

Such as have active spirits, who are ever *skimming* over the surface of things with a volatile spirit, will fix nothing in their memory. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

They *skim* over a science in a very superficial survey, and never lead their disciples into the depths of it. *Watts.*

The boat, light *skimming*, stretch'd his oary wings. *Thomf.*

SKIMBLESCAMBLE. *adj.* [A cant word formed by reduplication from *scamble*.] Wandering; wild.

A couching lion and a ramping cat,
 And such a deal of *skimblescamble* stuff,
 As puts me from my faith. *Shakespeare.*

SKIMMER. *n. f.* [from *skim*.] A shallow vessel with which the scum is taken off.

Wash your wheel in three or four waters, stirring it round; and with a *skimmer*, each time, take off the light. *Mortimer.*

SKIMMILK. *n. f.* [*skim* and *milk*.] Milk from which the cream has been taken.

Then cheese was brought: says Slouch, this e'en shall roll;
 This is *skimmilk*, and therefore it shall go. *King.*

SKIN. *n. f.* [*skind*, Danish.]

1. The natural covering of the flesh. It consists of the cuticle, outward skin, or scarf skin, which is thin and insensible, and the cutis, or inner skin, extremely sensible.

The body is confuted to nothing, the *skin* feeling rough and dry like leather. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

The priest on *skins* of off-rings takes his ease,
 And nightly visions in his slumber sees. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. Hide; pelt; that which is taken from animals to make parchment or leather.

3. The body; the person.

We meet with many of these dangerous civilities, wherein 'tis hard for a man to save both his *skin* and his credit. *L'Estr.*

TO SKIN. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To strip or divest of the skin.

The beavers run to the door to make their escape, are there intangled in the nets, seized by the Indians, and immediately *skinned*. *Ellis's Voyage.*

2. To cover with the skin.

It will but *skin* and film the ulcerous place,
 Whilst rank corruption, mining all within,
 Infects unseen. *Shakespeare.*

Authority, though it err like others,
 Has yet a kind of medicine in itself,
 That *skins* the vice o' th' top. *Shakespeare. Measure for Measure.*

The wound was *skinned*; but the strength of his thigh was not restored. *Dryden.*

It only patches up and *skins* it over, but reaches not to the bottom of the sore. *Locke.*

The last stage of healing, or *skinning* over, is called cicatrization. *Sharp's Surgery.*

3. To cover superficially.

What I took for solid earth was only heaps of rubbish, *skinned* over with a covering of vegetables. *Addison.*

SKINK. *n. f.* [cenc, Saxon.]

1. Drink; any thing potable.

2. Pottage.

Scotch *skink*, which is a pottage of strong nourishment, is made with the knees and sinews of beef, but long boiled: jelly also of knuckles of veal. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

TO SKINK. *v. n.* [cencan, Saxon.] To serve drink. Both noun and verb are wholly obsolete.

SKINKER. *n. f.* [from *skink*.] One that serves drink.

I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapt even now into my hand by an under *skinker*; one that never spake other English in his life, than eight shillings and six pence, and you are welcome, fir. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*

Hang up all the poor hop-drinkers,
 Cries old Sym, the king of *skinkers*. *Ben. Jonson.*

His mother took the cup the clown had fill'd;
 The reconciler bowl went round the board,
 Which, empty'd, the rude *skinker* still restor'd. *Dryden.*

SKINNED. *adj.* [from *skin*.] Having the nature of skin or leather; hard; callous.

When the ulcer becomes foul, and discharges a nasty ichor, the edges in process of time tuck in, and, growing *skinned* and hard, give it the name of callous. *Sharp's Surgery.*

SKINNER. *n. f.* [from *skin*.] A dealer in skins.

SKINNINESS. *n. f.* [from *skinny*.] The quality of being skinny.

SKINNY. *adj.* [from *skin*.] Consisting only of skin; wanting flesh.

Her choppy finger laying
 Upon her *skinny* lips. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

Least the asperity of these cartilages of the windpipe should hurt the gullet, which is tender, and of a *skinny* substance, these annular griffles are not made round; but where the gul-

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let touches the windpipe, there, to fill up the circle, is only a soft membrane, which may easily give way. *Roy on the Creation.*

His fingers meet
 In *skinny* films, and shape his oary feet. *Addison's Ovid.*

TO SKIP. *v. n.* [*scittire*, Italian; *esquiver*, French.] I know not whether it may not come from *scapa*.

1. To fetch quick bounds; to pass by quick leaps; to bound lightly and joyfully.

Was not Israel a derision unto thee? Was he found among thieves? For since thou spakest of him, thou *skippedst* for joy. *Jer. xlviii. 27.*

The queen, bound with love's powerful charm,
 Sat with Pigwigen arm in arm:
 Her merry maids, that thought no harm,
 About the room were *skipping*. *Drayton.*

At spur or switch no more he *skips*,
 Or mended pace, than Spaniard whipt. *Hudibras.*

The earth-born race
 O'er ev'ry hill and verdant pasture stray,
 Skip o'er the lawns, and by the rivers play. *Blackmore.*

John *skipped* from room to room, ran up stairs and down stairs, peeping into every cranny. *Arbutnot. Hist. of J. Bull.*

Thus each hand promotes the pleasing pain,
 And quick sensations *skip* from vein to vein. *Pope's Dunciad.*

The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
 Had he thy reason, would he *skip* and play? *Pope.*

2. To pass without notice.

Pope Pius II. was wont to say, that the former popes did wisely to let the lawyers a-work to debate, whether the donation of Constantine the Great to Sylvester of St. Peter's patrimony were good or valid in law or no; the better to *skip* over the matter in fact, whether there was ever any such thing at all or no. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*

A gentleman made it a rule, in reading, to *skip* over all sentences where he spied a note of admiration at the end. *Swift.*

TO SKIP. *v. a.* [*esquiver*, French.] To miss; to pass.

Let not thy sword *skip* one:

Pity not honour'd age for his white beard;
 He is an usurer. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

Although to engage very far in such a metaphysical speculation were unfit, when I only endeavour to explicate fluidity, yet we dare not quite *skip* it over, lest we be accused of over-seeing it. *Boyle.*

They who have a mind to see the issue may *skip* these two chapters, and proceed to the following. *Burnet.*

SKIP. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A light leap or bound.

He looked very curiously upon himself, sometimes fetching a little *skip*, as if he had said his strength had not yet forsaken him. *Sidney.*

You will make so large a *skip* as to cast yourself from the land into the water. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*

SKIPPACK. *n. f.* [*skip* and *jack*.] An upstart.

The want of shame or brains does not presently entitle every little *skipjack* to the board's end in the cabinet. *L'Estr.*

SKIPPENNEL. *n. f.* [*skip* and *kennel*.] A lackey; a footboy.

SKIPPER. *n. f.* [*schipper*, Dutch.] A shipmaster or shipboy.

Are not you afraid of being drowned too? No, not I, says the *skipper*. *L'Estrange.*

No doubt you will return very much improved. — Yes, refined like a Dutch *skipper* from a whale-fishing. *Congreve.*

SKIPPET. *n. f.* [Probably from *skiff*.] A small boat.

Upon the bank they fitting did espy
 A dainty damsel, dressing of her hair,
 By whom a little *skippet* floating did appear. *Fairy Queen.*

SKIRMISH. *n. f.* [from *ys* and *carm*, Welsh, the shout of war: whence *ysgarm*, and *ysgarmer*, old British words. *Maes a new* 'sgarmes a wnan, says an ancient writer. *Esfarmouche*, French.]

1. A slight fight: less than a set battle.

One battle, yes, a *skirmish* more there was
 With adverse fortune fought by Cartimand;
 Her subjects most revolt. *Philips's Briton.*

2. A contest; a contention.

There is a kind of merry war betwixt signior Benedick and her: they never meet but there's a *skirmish* of wit. *Shakespeare.*

These *skirmishes* expire not with the first propugners of the opinions: they perhaps began as single duellers; but then they soon have their partisans and abettors, who not only enhance, but entail the feud to posterity. *Decay of Piety.*

TO SKIRMISH. *v. n.* [*esfarmouche*, French; from the noun.] To fight loosely; to fight in parties before or after the shock of the main battle.

Ready to charge, and to retire at will;
 Though broken, scatter'd, fled, they *skirmish* still. *Fairfax.*

A gentleman volunteer, *skirmishing* with the enemy before Worcester, was run through his arm in the middle of the biceps with a sword, and shot with a musket-bullet in the same shoulder. *Wiceman's Surgery.*

I'll pass by the little *skirmishes* on either side. *Atterbury.*

SKIRMISHER. *n. f.* [from *skirmish*.] He who skirmishes. *Anst.*

TO SKIRRE. *v. a.* [This word seems to be derived from *scir*, Saxon, pure, clean; unless it shall be rather deduced from *scirglaw*.] To scour; to ramble over in order to clear.

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